

Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking on the Commission's Own Motion into Addressing the Commission's Water Action Plan Objective of Setting Rates that Balance Investment, Conservation, and Affordability for the Multi-District Water Utilities of: California-American Water Company (U210W), California Water Service Company (U60W), Del Oro Water Company, Inc. (U61W), Golden State Water Company (U133W) and San Gabriel Valley Water Company (U337W).

Rulemaking 11-11-008
(Filed November 10, 2011)

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**Summary**

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding to March 1, 2015.

Background

Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a) provides that quasi-legislative cases must be resolved within 18 months of the date the scoping memo is issued unless the Commission makes findings why that statutory deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending the 18-month deadline for a period not exceeding 60 days. In this proceeding, the statutory deadline is December 31, 2014.

On November 10, 2011, the Commission instituted this rulemaking to pursue the Water Action Plan's policy objective of setting rates that balance

investment, conservation, and affordability for five multi-district investor-owned water utilities.

Decision (D.) 14-10-047, dated October 16, 2014, concluded Phase I of this rulemaking by providing guidance on rate balancing for Commission-regulated, multi-district water utilities. The decision directs these utilities to review their districts for high-cost and affordability problems, to report on the review in their next general rate case (GRC) applications or Tier 3 GRC Advice Letter filings, as pertinent, and to propose one or more intra-utility solutions. The decision also opens a Phase II of this rulemaking “to analyze and propose actions on issues regarding affordability and rate design, including but not limited to conservation rate design such as tiered rate structures, and accounting mechanisms such as Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanisms.” (D.14-10-047 at 11.)

Consistent with D.14-10-047, a scoping memo will be filed in the near future to establish the scope and schedule for Phase II. In the interim, however, an extension of the statutory deadline is necessary beyond December 31, 2014. Therefore, as Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a) permits, we will extend the timeline for 60 days.

Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may reduce or waive the period for public review and comment of proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving quasi-legislative proceedings. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is being waived.

Assignment of Proceeding

Catherine J.K. Sandoval is the assigned Commissioner. Jean Vieth and Gary Weatherford are the assigned Administrative Law Judges in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. The statutory deadline for resolving this quasi-legislative proceeding is December 31, 2014.
2. D.14-10-047 opened a Phase II of this proceeding to analyze and propose actions on issues regarding affordability and rate design, including but not limited to conservation rate design such as tiered rate structures, and accounting mechanisms such as Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanisms.
3. Consistent with D.14-10-047, a scoping memo will be filed in the near future to establish the scope and schedule for Phase II; in the interim, a 60 day extension of the statutory deadline is necessary.

Conclusions of Law

1. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline should be extended to March 1, 2015.
2. This order should be effective immediately.

IT IS ORDERED that:

The statutory deadline in this proceeding, December 31, 2014, is extended until March 1, 2015.

This order is effective today.

Dated _____, at San Francisco, California.